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Week 3

ELT 310 School Experience

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A DAY OF A STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL

Third week's activity is monitoring a student for a day. For this activity, we should have picked a student from a class and observe his/her attitudes for four hours. Also, we were required to observe what kind of activities are done in each lectures that student attend. Moreover, we were also required to monitor student's behavior in each class, and if the chosen student's behavior changes when the classroom subject changes. The main focus was not just how the student's behavior is in classroom environment but it was also important to see how the student behaves outside the classroom. Besides, it was also important to observe chosen student's relationships with other students inside and outside the classroom.

The student that was observed was the 3rd grade student from Cumhuriyet Primary school. He was a regular student in class 3/D. His name is Utku Arda Cinar. He is 9 years old. Compared to other children in classroom, his height is a little bit short. He seems to have no physical problems. The student that was chosen for this task was on my radar from the first week of School Experience. In the first week, Arda lied to his teacher about his index finger and got away with not writing the things that teacher wrote on the board. Lying ability of a kid shows the intelligence level of a person. It means he is aware that he can manipulate or deceive. Even

though he seems like an active kid, he is a little bit introvert. He does not get close to his friends even though the other kids hug each other.

Furthermore, he seems like an organized boy. He has clean clothes compared to his friends who roll on the dirty ground and acts like clowns. During the observation, I noticed that he was always careful about his appearance and clothes. Also, he was very careful with the cover of his desk, he cleaned it and he tidied it very often. However, he oddly seems calm and he does not have that energy a kid should have. While his friends were jumping and running around, he was calmly sitting on his desk and eating the snack he brought from home. This calm attitude of him was observed all the time during the monitoring.

When the teacher entered the classroom, all students' book were on their desk except Arda's. Considering my previous observation before this day, I assume that he always procrastinates the things he has to do. This might be problematic if he was assigned with homeworks. Nevertheless, later when his class teacher was interviewed, he said the same thing about him. The class teacher emphasized that "Arda does not care about his responsibilities and the worse, he does not even feel ashamed or guilty of not completing his assignments".

During the whole English lesson, he was always falling behind the time to complete the tasks and in one part of the lesson he tried to cheat. The reason behind that can be feeling inferior because of not being able to complete what the teacher asked. Even though his teacher asked the students not to write down what she was writing on the board, he started writing them down in his notebook, but his friends complained about him to the teacher. At that age, if a student is loved by everyone in a classroom, no one would report him in anyway, however he was reported to the teacher. This indicates that he doesn't have strong bond with his classmates. This might be one of the issues that is holding him back from loving his classroom or school. The thing he

wrote down will be shown below on the Image A. As you would understand from the picture, his hand writing is not good in comparison with his friends. This shows that his motor skills aren't developed properly. And he might be having some eyesight problem because he has so many spelling problems.

He has different kind of attitudes that his friends don't have. In the middle of the lesson, he stands up from his desk and goes to the teacher to ask something or show his notebooks. This might be due to the fact that he just needs attention, which most probably he has not received much from his family or teachers. He is really self- centered child or it can be assumed that he wants to show the teacher that he is into the classroom even though most of the time, this is like 25 minutes of 40 minutes lesson, he is not listening to the teacher and following the lecture.

When the teacher said it was break time, he did not think for a minute to run out. In flash of a second, he was lost in the corridor of the school. He was with a group of friends in the school yard playing tag and run. He was not so quick and agile compared to his friends. This shows he is inactive in home too, probably he is into playing computer games or watching tv. In the school yard he mostly preferred to watch his friends and keep his clothes clean rather than climbing onto the fences or tree. He was not even running when all of his friends were running back to the classroom.

He has habit of going out during the lecture. He went for bathroom and came back after 3 minutes. This shows that he is not afraid of missing what is going on in the classroom. A lesson-focused student would be concerned to miss information or an event. He always had something to play with while students repeated words. It seems that he is not motivated enough by his family.

He was yawning during the lectures. That showed that he was bored and also he was sleepy. When he was asked what time he went to sleep, he replied it was very late and he indicated that he woke up at 11 o'clock in the morning, but he was still sleepy when he woke up and went back to sleep. This again shows that his family does not care so much about him. Obviously, he decides when to go to bed and wake up himself.

During Mathematics, he did not understand the instructions. But with the little help that was given by the observer, he understood the activity and completed it successfully. However, while he was counting the squares, he was skipping some numbers (Activity is shown below on Image B). His improvement after the help shows that, he needs scaffolding to reach his full potential. Sadly, he is not receiving enough attention in classroom from the teacher . This can be considered not only as the teacher's fault but also the system's that puts thirty students in a classroom. His teacher stated that he was not really a successful boy and if there was grading, he would not get higher than 3 over 5 grading system.

In his Turkish class, he showed that the same boredom as he showed during the two other classes. The activity was about dreaming the things that was mentioned in a poem, and drawing the things they dream. His drawings were so simple in comparison with his friends (see Image C). Furthermore, the interesting thing was that, he said mathematics and Turkish was and sciences were his favourite subject but he showed no interest on any of them.

To sum up, he was not active in classroom and wasn't paying attention to the lecture. However, it was obvious that his intelligence level wasn't lower than any other kid around even it might be higher. He has really good behaviors too. He always closed the door behind his friends who left it opened. He was loving and caring. If he gets the attention he needs, and if the teacher helps him in the activities, also his family supports him and encourages him, he can be a very

successful student. This brings up a question. Isn't it the same with all children? There are a lot of responsibilities waiting for us, prospective teachers. It is always good to see these before hands.

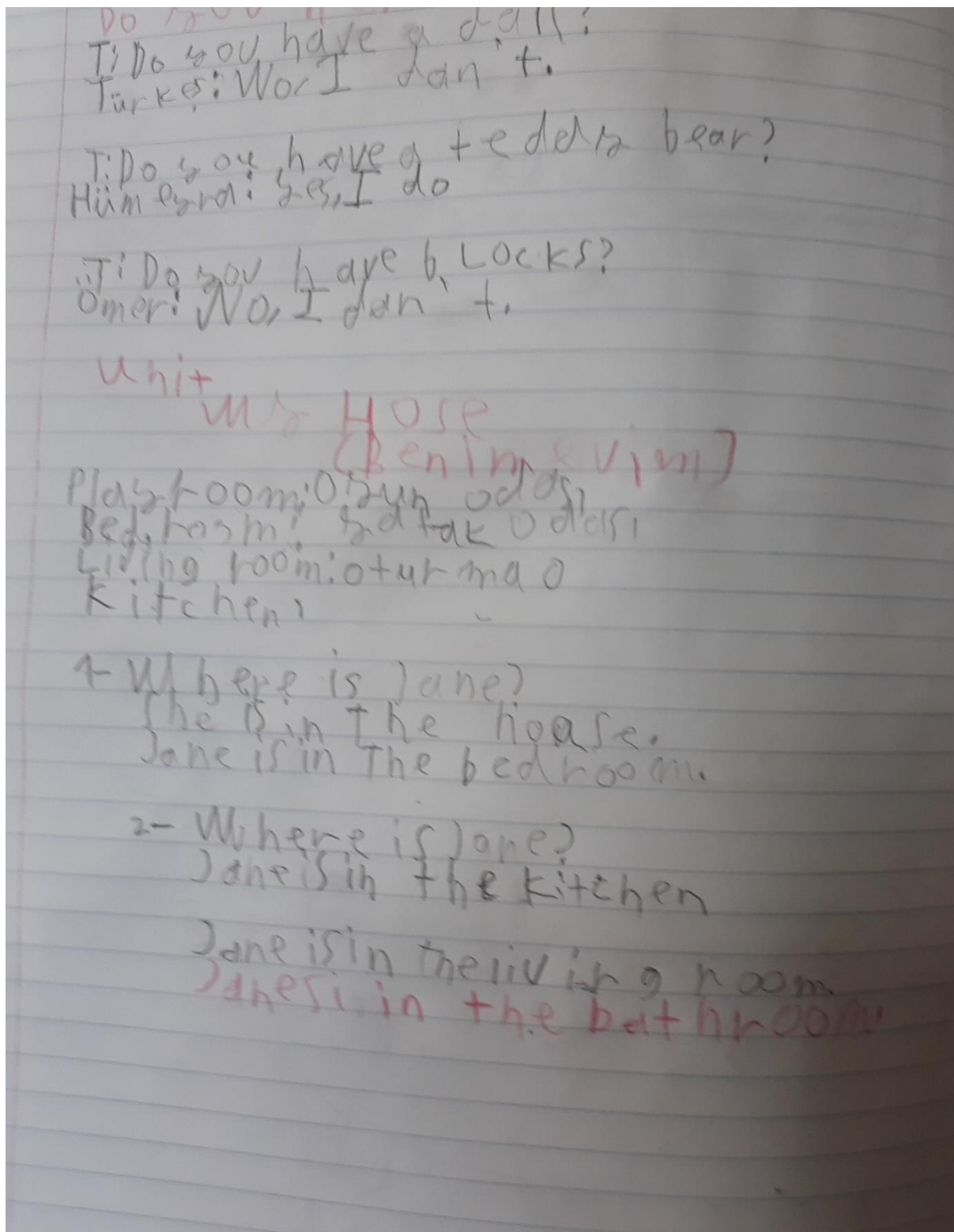


Image A

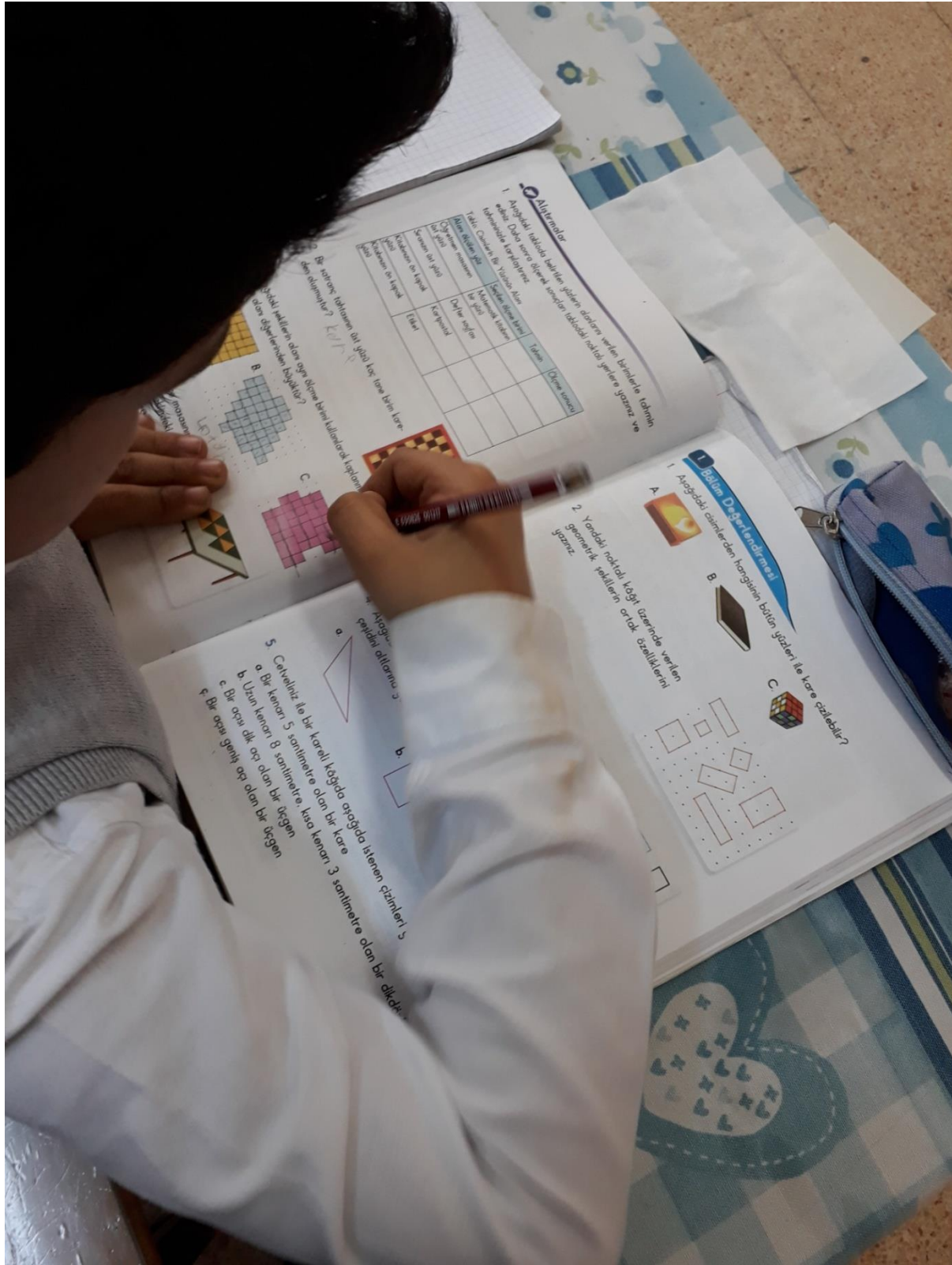
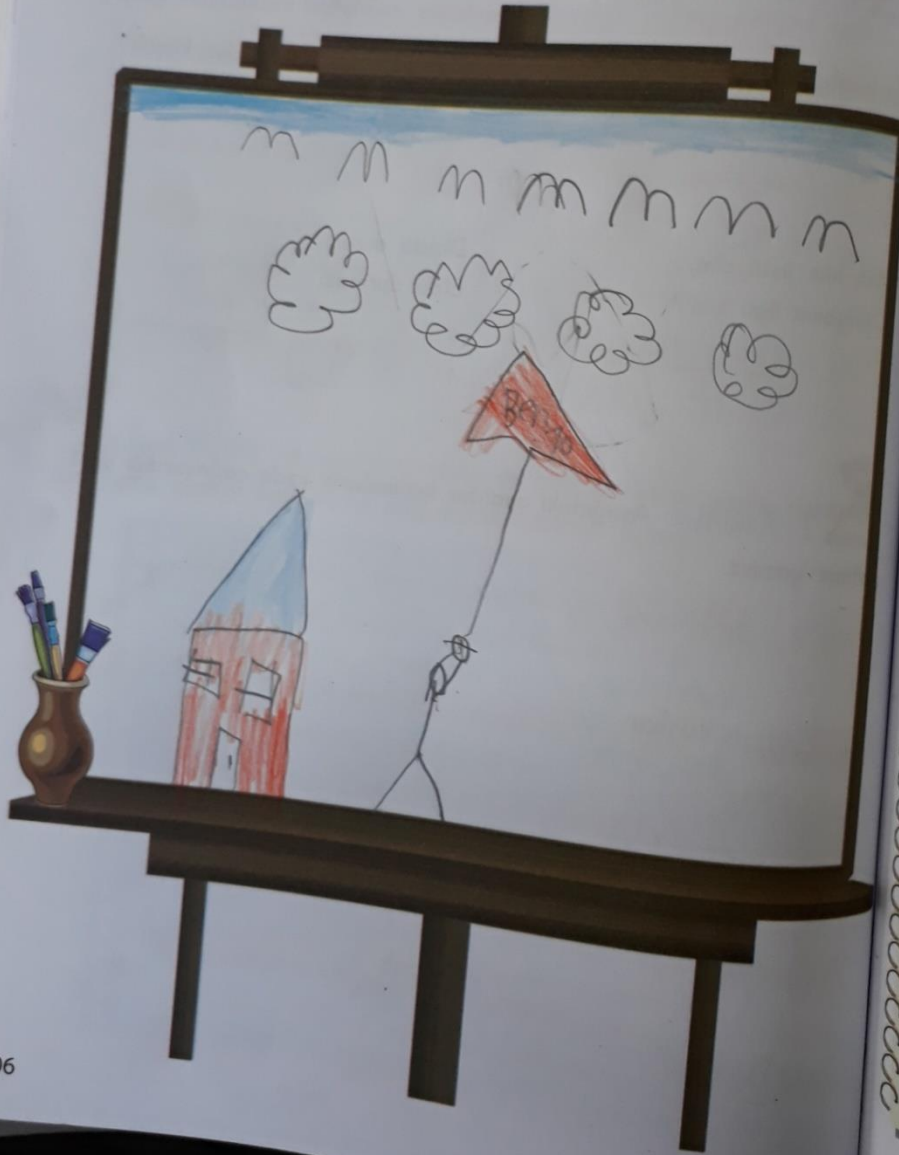


Image B

3. Etkinlik: Dinlediğiniz şiirle ilgili zihninizde neler canlandı?
Zihninizde canlandırdıklarınızın resmini aşağıya yapınız.



4. Et

1. Kuşla

2. Uçak

3. Uçurt

4. Şiire

5. Şiirin

6. Şair, s

7. Şairin,